



**Chief of Naval Operations
International Maritime Security Conference
(Prepared Opening Remarks)
16 May 2017**

Intro

1. Good afternoon, and thanks for inviting me to speak on this panel.
2. A special thanks to our hosts -- Singapore has long been a close partner and friend.
 - a. Congratulations on 50th anniversary - Golden Jubilee - of the Rep of Singapore Navy
3. Welcome to my fellow panel members:
 - a. ADM Jones
 - b. ADM Lanba
 - c. RADM Lai
 - d. And our moderator, Dr. Liow
4. Thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts with you today.

5. This is an important and timely event to bring together communities of interest -- navies and industry -- to build trust, strengthen cooperation, and exchange ideas about how to enhance maritime security - and by extension prosperity - throughout the world, and especially in this very important region.
6. Unifying themes - what we have in common...drawn to the sea, hoping to prosper

Complex Environment

7. Most people I talk to these days see the world changing rapidly, and becoming more complex.
8. Best word to describe changes in the maritime environment is exponential.
9. Information technology -- creation of new capability is exponential in every aspect:
 - a. Processing, storage, software.
 - b. Amount of information doubling every 13 months.
 - c. Not just IT, but IT-enabled:

- i. Additive manufacturing
- ii. Unmanned and autonomous
- iii. Artificial intelligence
- iv. Genetic science

10. Not only being created faster, but also being introduced to the market and being adopted faster, and more horizontally:

- a. Idea of “first users” is fleeting, and not long lasting
- b. But as the industry partners know, being first to the market - even for a short time - can be decisive.

11. This change is present in the maritime domain:

- a. 4x more shipping traffic in the last 25 years (started easily 10K years ago...some studies in Crete showing closer to 100K).
- b. Climate change is making things different in many ways, including access to trade routes and continental shelves that were previously inaccessible

- c. Other resources in the sea...our food is coming more and more from the sea
- d. as well, technology allowing access to sea floor -- and attendant resources.
- e. Information...runs along the seafloor in underwater cables...99%.

12. This change has fueled tremendous growth, and related, new and different competitions - new forms and new competitors. We should not be surprised...or alarmed by this.

13. In fact, maritime power since the beginning has been strongly tied to trade and prosperity - access to markets, resources, and trade routes.

To address this emerging reality, the US Navy is focusing intently on expanding and strengthening partnerships

- International partnerships - dynamic - partnerships changing and responding to changes in the partners.

- Military to military dimension of international partnerships almost always fruitful
- Takes advantage of common culture that militaries share
- Amongst mil-mil relationships, I would argue that Navy-Navy and Navy-Coast Guard partnerships are particularly productive
 - In international waters
 - Requires close coordination
 - Communications
- Very heartening to see so many chiefs of navy and other naval leaders here - partners, friends, and allies, in a network that is growing stronger every time we get together or communicate
- We are also looking to expand and strengthen partnerships with industry
 - Again, the relationship between navies and industry is a natural one...

- A view of the international fleet review yesterday, with dozens of ships from different navies shows that we are a 'capital intensive' force
- Industry helps navies manage - even harness - change more effectively and efficiently
- Most impactful when we start the conversations with industry as soon as we have an idea of what we need...allows a full understanding of what we want to do and how they can best help us do it
- Also note that there are strong partnerships among industry...suppliers and producers...long standing relationships built on close understanding of what is needed of each party, and that have led to trust that in turn leads to mutual success
- Finally, would say that there is a strong resonance between industry partners and naval partners - as the equipment we build and employ provide for collaboration and interoperability
 - Sharing a common picture

- Communicating
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- So the US Navy sees that an important element of executing our mission is to expand and deepen our partnerships - both international and with industry
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- But there is more that needs saying
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- Another crucial factor that has contributed to peaceful prosperity and growth, and has been the foundation of successful partnerships, is a well understood and agreed upon set of rules, or norms, conventions, laws...guides to govern behavior
 - True in international relations and partnerships
 - True in industry - seek transparency, predictability, some restraints
 - True in the maritime - UNCLOS, rules of the road, and new structures - INCSEA, CUES

- Rules and norms do not prevent growth - history shows that they can enable growth, and perhaps more growth for everybody...
- Rules do not prevent competition - that would go against human nature
- But they can allow competition to unfold in a way that is not violent, where competition does not degrade into conflict, which is anti-growth, by any measure, for all involved.

So my proposed maritime objective would be to continue to look for concrete ways to expand and strengthen our partnerships and by extension to strengthen the rules that govern our behaviors

- Between nations
- Between navies
- and with industry

I believe that strong naval forces - maritime forces - are uniquely suited to help manage the increasing pace and complexity of change, by virtue of the uniquely productive relationships that are possible, and by virtue of strong history and advocacy for behavior in accordance with a well-understood and agreed-to set of rules.

And navies can do this in a way that preserves the opportunity for growth, and yes, the opportunity for competition, but also in a way that avoids conflict and violence.

Thanks again, and I look forward to hearing from my colleagues and your questions.

- Defense Treaty allies in attendance:
 - Australia -- ANZAC Treaty
 - Canada -- NATO
 - Denmark -- NATO
 - Germany -- NATO
 - Greece -- NATO
 - Italy -- NATO
 - Japan -- bilat 1951 treaty
 - Peru -- Rio Treaty
 - Philippines -- 1951 bilat treaty
 - Poland -- NATO
 - South Korea -- 1953 bilat treaty
 - Thailand -- SEATO Treaty
 - Uruguay -- Rio Treaty
 - United Kingdom -- NATO

- Partners in attendance:

- Bangladesh
- Brunei
- India
- Malaysia
- Myanmar / Burma
- New Zealand
- Singapore
- Sweden
- Timor-Leste
- United Arab Emirates